

SEVERE RAPS FOR HIS DEPARTMENT

Special Committee Finds Dr. Oppenheimer's Statistics Bad.

A REVELATION IN BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Certificates of Both Sadly Inadequate and Latter Not Kept According to Requirements of Law—Death Certificates Vari-ously Signed.

The Health Department of Richmond received some severe raps last evening at a meeting of the Special Health In-vestigation Committee, of which Dr. En-don G. Williams is chairman.

A sub-committee which had been look-ing into the methods used in the Health Department for securing and tabulating vital statistics, had been under scrutiny of a sub-committee, and it was the high-ly seasoned report of this committee which the general committee heard with great interest.

Of the system of the registration of births in the city, the sub-committee says that it is "most unsatisfactory," and one which the committee believes may be readily arrested.

Of the death certificates, the committee reports:

"Little or no effort seems to have been made to have the certificates made out according to the require-ments of law."

Many instances are given to show "mixed business methods."

Report of Great Interest.

The special committee met at 5 o'clock last evening, with the fol-lowing members present: Dr. Wil-liams, chairman, and Messrs. Blair, Lynch and Morton. Dr. Oppenheimer and Hogg, of the Board of Health, and Clerk O'Grady, of the board, were also present.

After some discussion of a bit of friction between the board and this committee, and explanations that quickly put it all at an end, the committee proceeded to business.

The sub-committee appointed to in-vestigate the statistics of the Health De-partment and report their findings, submitted a full report, which was read, as follows:

Your subcommittee, appointed to in-quire into the statistical department of the Board of Health, begs leave to report as follows:

We took as the basis of our inquiry the last printed report of the Board of Health, which was for the year 1904.

Every assistance and courtesy was ex-tended to us by the president and clerk, who put at our disposal the books and documents and who explained the work-ings and methods of the department.

The president of the Board of Health, Dr. W. T. Oppenheimer, stated that the statistical department is under his su-pervision, and that, while he is responsible for its conduct, he does not see all the certificates, nor does he summarize the certificates. The clerk of the board, Mr. J. E. O'Grady, receives the certifi-cates and makes from them the official reports.

Your subcommittee did not deem it necessary to attempt to verify all the statistics contained in the report of the department, but confined itself chiefly to a revision of the birth and death statis-tics, and gives below a comparison with what was found and what is shown by the official report:

Birth Statistics.

The report of the Board of Health gives the number of births as 634, divided as follows:

White—Male 165
Female 182

Total 347
Colored—Male 135
Female 123

Total 258
Sex not stated 3

Color not stated—
Male 4
Female 3

Total 7

Only the family name of the infant was given on 346 certificates; this is noted here solely for the purpose of record and recommendation hereafter.

Your subcommittee does not believe that either 634 or 650 correctly represents the aggregate births during the year; for since the department reports 1,534 deaths, such an excess of deaths over births would indicate an actual falling off in population of more than 1,300. As this decrease in population has not oc-curred, either the report of births is in-correct or the population has been kept up by immigration or extension of ter-ritory. Incomplete reports are evidently the true explanation and is the one of-fered by the Board of Health, which claims, first, that it is impossible to get physicians to report all births at which they officiate, and, second, there are many births at which no physician or midwife is present. While your subcommittee be-lieves that this explanation may be ac-cepted to the extent of reassuring us that the population of Richmond is not falling off by reason of excess of deaths over births, yet it reveals a most unsatis-factory system of registration of births and one which we believe may be readily corrected, as most cities are able to show a birth rate at least as high as the death rate; for example:

New York (1900) 55,044 68,085 5 to 4
Boston (1902) 15,549 11,000 7 to 5
Illinois (1900) 100,000 65,000 7 to 3
Richmond 634 1,534 1 to 3

In France the situation is considered critical on account of a birth rate of 19 per 1,000, yet, according to the official

(Continued on Third Page.)

UNANIMOUS FOR RAILROAD BILLS

Senate Committee Re-ports R. F. & P. Measures.

ALL OBJECTIONS WERE SWEEPED AWAY

Under Additional Bill Offered With Consent and Approval of Road Merger is Not Possible Until Con-tract is Passed Upon.

By unanimous vote, after full and thorough investigation, the Senate Com-mittee on Finance and Banks last night reported with favorable recommendation four bills that will permit the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, limited by certain specified conditions, to surrender the antiquated charter, under which it is now being operated, secure articles of incorporation bringing it within the provisions of the general laws of the State, and should it at any time see fit so to do, merge with the Wash-ington and Southern at the northern end, forming one continuous line between this city and the national capital.

When explanation of the situation had been made by the president of the two roads, backed up by the entire line of officials appointed to guard the State's interests in the local company, objections to the new plans proposed fell away completely, and though there was still some shaking of heads among those who had apparently not grasped the prelo-minence of the change and its effects, ap-proval of the measures as ultimately presented was assured.

Not only was it shown beyond all question that the State would gain and not lose by the change, but it was pointed out in addition that the railway com-pany itself is perhaps giving up more than it will get back in return, that it is by no means clamoring for opportunity to do this, and that the movement was initiated in fact by the official repre-sentatives of the Commonwealth themselves, who have for five years, with a view to bringing money into the public treasury, been urging the advisability of a new charter. The bugbear of the Pennsyl-vania, hovering upon the system with fell designs upon the Richmond connection, the dreaded danger of some smooth and dishonest name, by which the General Assembly would be trapped and inveigled into an irrevocable enactment that the line should never be paralleled, both wholly disappeared from the prospect and consideration. Charter change under the bills means for the State at least \$25,000 a year for which she pays a surrender of countless privileges; merger is made absolutely impossible until the contract under which the consolidation is to be effected has been approved by the official bodies, any one of which may halt the negotiations though the other two agree.

"If there is any danger in this, gentle-men of the committee," said Judge Leake, president of the two railways, summing up the situation, "we ask you to suggest some other plan, and we will accept it. If any one of the State officials here objects to the plan proposed don't pass the bills."

Thoroughly Safeguarded.

Consideration of the bills, in which there was the most widespread public interest, was begun before the committee shortly after 8 P. M., and continued through the night. The original bills were drawn up by Judge Leake himself. One of them, embodying in a separate act, the amendments to the general law pro-posed in the second of the bills, was withdrawn as inconsequential. This is the bill that contained the clause re-ferring to the paralleling of the road. It was explained that this clause was now contained in statutes existing, and that it was included merely to conform the new act to those statutes.

No question was raised of the State's right to repeal the statute if at any time it so desired. Besides the drag-net through which the incorporation change will have to pass will effectively prevent this law as to paralleling to be used as the basis for a contract, after the creation of which it might not be possible to rescind the act. At all events, however, this bill was withdrawn, and the matter of paralleling figured very little in the discussion.

It must be understood that while the bills affect the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac particularly, they concern general laws governing all corporations.

Amendments to this general law are made in one of the bills, so as to au-thorize any railroad corporation chartered by the General Assembly to surrender its charter and to take a new charter under the present Constitution, relinquishing special privileges and special liabilities.

(Continued on Second Page.)

PAT CROWE ACQUITTED OF KIDNAPPING CUDAHY

Celebrated Self-Confessed Criminal Escapes Conviction in Sensational Case.

(By Associated Press.) OMAHA, NEB., February 15.—Pat Crowe, charged with the robbery of Ed-ward A. Cudahy, the Omaha picker, of \$25,000 in connection with the kidnapping of Mr. Cudahy's son, five years ago, was acquitted this afternoon. The jury was out fifteen hours.

The kidnapping of Eddie Cudahy, Dec-ember 19, 1900, and his release upon pay-ment by his father of \$25,000, ransom, created a great sensation, and the search for the kidnapers was stimulated at the time by the offer of a reward of \$50,000 by Mr. Cudahy.

Last October Crowe was arrested in Butte, Mont. He was put on trial Feb-ruary 7th. There was no evidence pos-itive to identify Crowe as one of the kidnapers.

(Continued on Third Page.)



MISS RICHMOND'S NEW DRESS!

To-morrow's Times-Dispatch will contain special news and illustrated features of the White House wedding. All of the extraordinary details of this interesting event will be fully described and liberally photographed by staff and special writers and artists.

Buy the Times-Dispatch and get a glimpse of the wedding.

PATTERN SHOPS ARE DESTROYED

Fire at Richmond Locomotive Works Last Night Results in Small Loss.

PRIVATE APPARATUS FAILED

Richmond Fire Department Saved the Immense Works—Two Painful Accidents.

An alarm of fire, turned in from the private box of the Richmond Branch of the American Locomotive Company, last night at 9:15 o'clock, caused general excitement throughout the city and at-tracted a crowd of several thousand peo-ple to the works.

Engines Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 9, and truck No. 2 responded to the call, and by 10 o'clock had the fire extinguished.

A captain of one of the fire companies fell through the roof, while making an examination, and although receiving se-vere and painful bruises, escaped with-out dangerous injuries. He was taken to his residence, where he received med-ical treatment. Captain Haake, of truck company No. 2, was slightly injured by a spike. Dr. Witten, of the Ambulance Corps, attended him.

A Critical Situation.

The fire was discovered about 9 o'clock in the office adjoining the pattern shop. The private fire apparatus belonging to the Locomotive Works was operated, and the flames were almost under control, when the hose, which was later found to be rotten, burst, and an alarm was turned in, calling out the Richmond fire department.

It is worthy of note that the Locomo-tive Works was not included in the ter-ritory which will be annexed to the city, yet had it not been for the active work of the City Fire Department, the Rich-mond Locomotive Works would to-day be a heap of smoldering ashes.

Although the works pay no city taxes, it enjoys the use of city protection and has for a number of years had a pri-vate fire alarm box installed.

It is of especial interest, just at this time, when the subject of annexation is alive in the minds of all, to observe the spectacle of a property being saved by the fire department of Richmond of which it is not a part.

Willing to Come In.

Appreciating this dependency of the great plant on the city and the support it owed the city for police and fire pro-tection, Mr. Joseph Bryan, managing di-rector of the works, expressed a willing-ness that it become a part of the city when the matter of very extended an-nexation was being discussed. The City Council finally did not, however, ask that the plant be taken in.

It is thought that the fire was the result of a "live electric wire." The damage, which is fully covered by insur-ance, will reach, it is said, \$5,000. The most important loss being a motor which had lately been installed in the pattern shops at a cost of \$5,000.

The fire will not in any way retard the work at the shops, with the exception of the pattern shops, which will be out of commission for about one week.

The works were in operation after the fire last night.

COUNT BONI WON'T CONTEST DECREE

Facilitates Matters By Calling on Wife's Lawyers to Accept Service of Writ.

COUNTESS MAY LOSE TITLE

Right Terminates Should Decree Be Extended After Three Years to a Divorce.

(By Associated Press.) PARIS, February 16.—An "urgent" writ was to-day served upon Count Boni de Castellane, making him defendant in the separation proceedings of his wife, formerly Anna Gould. This decisive step was taken after renewed efforts to effect a reconciliation had proved fruitless. The count accepted service of the writ, even calling upon the countess' lawyers to facilitate fixing upon a place where the writ could be delivered. The bill of com-plaint was filed at the same time. It follows very closely the countess' prima facie, showing when she first asked the court's permission to take action against her husband. It mentions no names, but particularly certain incidents in which the count is alleged to have participated, and it asks for a decree for what the

(Continued on Third Page.)

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Virginia—Fair, slightly warmer; Saturday; Sunday, fair; light east winds.

North Carolina—Fair, slightly warmer; Saturday; Sunday, fair; fresh northeast winds.

Conditions Yesterday.

Richmond's weather was clear and cold. Range of the thermometer:

9 A. M. 21 6 P. M. 22
12 M. 23 9 P. M. 30
3 P. M. 33 12 M. Night 25
(Average) 28 5-6.

Highest temperature yesterday 34
Lowest temperature yesterday 15
Mean temperature yesterday 23
Normal temperature for February 36
Departure from normal temperature 10

Thermometer This Day Last Year

9 A. M. 11 6 P. M. 29
12 M. 23 9 P. M. 28
3 P. M. 28 12 M. Night 29
(Average) 24 2-3.

Condition in Important Cities.

(At 8 P. M., Eastern Time.)

Place. Temperature. Wind. Weather.

Asheville, N. C. 36 40 Clear
Augusta, Ga. 44 50 Clear
Atlanta, Ga. 44 50 Clear
Charlotte, N. C. 41 50 Clear
Hatteras, N. C. 41 50 Clear
Key West, Fla. 41 50 Clear
Mobile, Ala. 50 60 Clear
New York City 32 30 Clear
Norfolk, Va. 32 30 Clear
Raleigh, N. C. 32 30 Clear
Washington, D. C. 34 34 Clear
Wilmington, N. C. 34 34 Clear

Miniature Almanac.

February 17, 1906.
HIGH TIDE, Morning, 11:38
Evening,

THE TOBACCO GROWERS MEET

Splendid Gathering of Raisers of the Dark Leaf in Lynch-burg.

CONGRESSMAN GLASS SPEAKS

Addresses By Fort, of Tennessee, Soules and Aflams Enthusi-astically Received.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., February 16.—About two hundred farmers attended the mass meeting which was held to-day at the Hill City Assembly Hall, and a profitable meeting was the result. The mass meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock by Dr. T. W. Evans, president of the Lynch-burg District, and Rev. J. A. McMurray led in an opening prayer. Dr. Evans made an earnest speech, in which he outlined the object of the gathering, and at the conclusion presented Mr. Charles Fort, of Tennessee, who gave a glowing account of what has been achieved in Tennessee by the organization, and what the farmers of Virginia have to do in bringing about the same results here. Mr. Fort flayed the trusts with gloves off.

Glass Speaks.

Congressman Carter Glass was the next speaker. He stated that he had not come to make a speech, but had come on invitation of the executive committee to confer with business matters connected with the association. He spoke at some length, however, on the value of intelli-gent organization and concerted efforts in farming. In closing, he bid the as-sociation a Godspeed, and hoped the time would come when the farmers would en-joy a larger portion of the benefits of the government.

Mr. Andrew M. Soule, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, was the next speaker, who, in a most interesting manner, spoke of the encouraging progress that is being made in the effecting of organiza-tions by the farmers.

Mr. Soule's address was one full of thought for his hearers, and the interest of those present was indicated by the rapid attention he secured throughout.

Mr. W. D. Rice, of Charlotte county, declared the effort to interest the farmers in organization was harder work than raising tobacco.

Scores the Trust.

Mr. S. C. Adams, the President of the Interstate Protective Association of Light Tobacco Growers, of Charlotte county, spoke eloquently of the necessity of or-ganization for the farmers. He scored the tobacco trust in no uncertain terms and when he attempted to stop talking the audience would not permit it. He de-cared himself opposed to the extension of the public schools of the State until the farmers were in a position to take advantage of what they already have.

The last speaker of the morning was Major J. W. Flood, of Appomattox county, who appealed to the farmers to stand together. The afternoon ses-sion was opened with a few remarks by Dr. Evans, who explained the plan of printing and caring for the tobacco pro-duct.

He was asked a large number of ques-tions from the floor relative to the

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

COURT'S REVIEW HOLDS UP ACTION

Committeemen Afraid to Bring Feature to a Vote.

INCREASE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS

An Amendment Suggested By Senator Martin, Providing for Nine Interstate Commerce Commissioners In-stead of Five Adopted.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16.—It is the best opinion at Washington that the rate regulation bill that will finally pass both houses of Congress will pro-vide that the Interstate Commerce Com-mission, probably increased to a member-ship of nine, as proposed in an amend-ment to the rate bill offered by Senator Martin this year, as well as last, may have the power to fix all charges of transportation by railroad and steamship companies. Coupled with this section of the bill will be a provision to the effect that the order of the commission fixing the rate may be reviewed by the United States circuit courts, on application of the railroad or steamship company.

All the fighting will be about that lat-ter provision. Many of the sincerest ad-vocates of the legislation of the charac-ter proposed fear that to give the courts jurisdiction would be to kill the bill in so far as any real benefits to the shipper are concerned.

But the bill drawn by Senator Elkins provides that the case, when taken into the courts, shall be defended by the com-mission, so that, while there may be delay in enforcing the order of the com-mission fixing a new rate, the cost of getting the rate will not be borne by the shipper. If the provision of the bill re-quiring the carrier company to give bond to indemnify the shipper for all over-charges on shipments made while the case is pending in the courts, the commission was suspended pending the appeal to the courts, it is hard to see how he would be materially injured.

Would Go Too Far.

It is the opinion of some of the ablest lawyers of the House that Con-gress has not the power to go so far as to fix a rate and compel the roads to put it into effect. This would be a kind of legislative judicial and ex-ecutive power, it is claimed, which the Supreme Court would decide to be repug-nant to the constitution. The Congress alone has the power to regulate inter-state commerce.

But in so regulating it has not the power to make a law which would com-pel the roads to do business at a loss. Such a law would be confiscatory, and the court would hold that it was a tak-ing of private property without due pro-cess of law. This is the argument of those who wish to see the court review provisions embodied in the bill. They think that otherwise there would be dan-ger of having the law, when enacted, declared unconstitutional by the courts.

The present indications are that the Congress will enact a law which will permit the order of the commission fixing a rate to be reviewed by the courts, upon the application of the carrier.

Carmack Thinks He'll Win.

Senator Carmack, who is engaged in the "Carmack fight" of his life, in order to retain his seat in the Senate from Ten-nessee, came back to Washington Fri-day, to be here a day or two. It is evi-dent that Tennessee presents an anomalous condition in politics. The person-ality of a Republican President enters very largely into a contest between two Democrats for nomination to the Sen-ate. Senator Carmack has distinguished himself by reason of his outspoken criticism of President Roosevelt.

Ex-Gov. "Bob" Taylor, who is oppos-ing Mr. Carmack for re-election, argues in his speeches that the usefulness of the latter has become so much impaired by reason of the President's dislike of him that he should not longer represent the Volunteer State in the Senate.

"I have criticized the public acts of the President in a public manner," said Mr. Carmack to-day. "That I had a perfect right to do. I did criticize him for eating with Booker Washington. I had a right to do that. I criticized him for closing the postoffice at Indianola, Miss. because the white people there did not want Minnie Cox, a negro, for postmaster. I had a right to do that, and I do not regret it. I want to be senator from Tennessee, but more than that I want to be a white man."

The fight is an extremely close one, but Senator Carmack says that he is gaining votes all the time. The choice of candidates for the Senate is to be

(Continued on Second Page.)

TWO MEN HUNG; EACH KILLED THREE PEOPLE

One of the Murderers Executed for Killing Wife and Two Small Children.

(By Associated Press.) CHICAGO, February 16.—John Mueller and Robert Newcomb, who had each murdered three people, were executed to-day in the county jail.

The crime for which Mueller was hanged was one of the most frightful ever committed in this city, the victims being his wife, Anna Mueller, and his two children, Mary, one and a half years old, and Martha, two and a half years old.

Newcomb killed a negro woman, of whom he was jealous, shot another negro without provocation and killed Police Sergeant Shins, who attempted to arrest him.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

ALL THINGS READY FOR THE WEDDING

Miss Alice and Mr. Longworth Rehearse for To-Day's Ceremony

COME TO VIRGINIA FOR HONEYMOON?

"Little Bird" Says Couple Will Spend First Week or Two After Marriage at Pine Knot—Apple Jack and Verses From Mr. Jones.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.) WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16.—One of the latest alleged "inside" tips as to the plans of Mr. and Mrs. Longworth for their honeymoon is that they will go to Pine Knot, Mrs. Roosevelt's place in Albemarle, and will spend a week or more there, at the expiration of which time they will go to Florida, and while away a month or two in the Land of Flowers. Mr. Longworth has arranged a general pair to exist until March 4th, which shows that he will not terminate his honeymoon in a hurry. It is not certain that the couple will go to Alber-marle, but that report is being circulated to-day. Few people indeed know where the couple will spend their honey-moon.

A bottle of fine old Virginia apple jack was given Mr. Longworth to-day by Representative William A. Jones, of Virginia, to be presented to the bride.

The bride was sent to Mr. Jones for Miss Roosevelt by Mr. Thomas B. Hurst, of Northumberland county, an old Con-federate soldier, and one of the finest men in that section. Accompanying the gift were the following lines:

"Nowhere the apples grow so fine
As in Virginia.
Nowhere so ruby-red the wine
As in Virginia.
Nowhere men braver stand in line,
Nor purer women—more divine—
Than in Virginia."

"So if in life your hopes grow slack,
Just take a nip of apple Jack,
And tell the boys to take you back
To old Virginia."

Mr. Longworth expressed his apprecia-tion of the gift, especially as coming from a gallant soldier of the Confederacy and said he would be sure to see that Miss Roosevelt got it safe.

BREACH OF PROMISE SO SOON? HORRORS!

Crazy Swede Rattles at the White House Gate and Policeman Responds.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16.—Peter Carlsson, Swede, who said his age was forty-four years and his home was North William Street, New York city, was taken into custody at the White House to-night on a charge of insanity and locked up.

Carlsson had been walking up and down the pavement and had tried the gate at the east entrance of the White House when a policeman asked him what he wanted. He replied that he had come to Washington to-day and that he wanted to see Miss Alice Roosevelt, to whom he said he was engaged to be married.

Carlsson was well dressed, carried a satchel, and appeared to have consid-erable money about him.

ALL REHEARSED BUT PRESIDENT

Mr. Roosevelt Was Too Busy in the Executive Office to Go Through Ceremony.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., February 16.—In the East Room of the White House to-morrow, Miss Alice Roosevelt, daugh-ter of the President, and Representative Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio, will be united in marriage. The historic room in which the ceremony will be performed and which has been the scene of many brilliant events, will be decorated more elaborately than upon any previous oc-casion, yet with extreme taste. The work of preparing the East Room for the wed-ding continued throughout to-day, and was practically completed by to-night.

Late in the day the wedding was re-hearsed in the East Room. None but the wedding party was present. The President was engaged at the time in conference with Secretary Bonaparte and Admiral Sigsbee at the executive office, and was not at the rehearsal. Nor was Bishop Henry W. Satterlee, who will offi-ciate to-morrow. Mr. Longworth, ac-companied by his best man and the ush-ers, walked from Mr. Longworth's home to the White House, where they joined Miss Roosevelt and the other members of the wedding party.

A large section of the United States Marine Band, under the direction of Lieut-enant Santelme, was in attendance, playing the music for the rehearsal.

Wagon-loads of Gifts.

Throughout the day express wagons and private messengers were continually arriving at the White House with wedding gifts for the bridal couple. Presents have been pouring in constantly for some time from all sections of the country and from almost every quarter of the globe. For two days the presents have been on ex-hibition to immediate personal friends of the bride and groom, who have come to attend the wedding.

It is estimated that there will be about 50 guests at the wedding, and it is possible that some of the number may have to be placed in the Green Room, although it is believed by those acquainted with the capacity of this house that the East Room will be sufficiently large to hold all the guests. After the ceremony and the reception of the guests by the bride and

(Continued on Fifth Page.)